

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 2-11, 14-21, 27, 28, 30, and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would have been allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 22 and 23 were marked as being allowable over the prior art.

With the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 2, claim 2 has been cancelled and claims 3 and 8 have been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of claim 2. As such, claim 1 represents claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-11 are patentable over the prior art.

With the present amendment, the limitations from claims 13 and 14 have been incorporated into claim 12. As such, claim 12 represents claim 14 rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claim 12 and claims 15 and 16, which depend therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

New claim 32 of the present application is claim 12 rewritten with the limitation of claim 17 added to it. As such, claim 31 represents claim 17 rewritten in independent form. Claim 17 has been cancelled and claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 32. As such claim 32 and claims 18-21, which depend therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

Claim 24 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 25-27. As such, claim 24 now represents claim 27 rewritten in independent form. Claims 25-27 have been cancelled and claim 28 has been amended to depend from claim 24 instead of claim 27. As such, claims 24, 28, and 29 are in form for allowance.

New claim 33 represents claim 30 rewritten in independent form. In particular, new claim 33 is claim 24 with

the limitations of claim 30 added to it. As such, claim 33 is in form for allowance.

New claim 34 represents former claim 31 rewritten in independent form. As such, new claim 34 is in form for allowance.

With the above amendments, each of the independent claims now include limitations that have been indicated as being allowable in the previous Office Action. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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